



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Lisa Richardson, 213-361-6980

Email: lrichardson@bos.lacounty.gov

Contact: Lorenza Munoz, 213-974-2222

Email: lmunoz@bos.lacounty.gov

The Future of LAX and Light Rail: How Will the Train Reach the Airport

How to connect the region's expanding light rail system to the Los Angeles International Airport is the most important transportation challenge facing the county.

In order for Los Angeles to remain in the ranks of world-class cities, it must provide this transportation option that is regarded by travelers as essential across the globe—from Tokyo to London, Seoul to Sydney and cities throughout the United States. **At 11:00 a.m., Saturday January 18**, a panel of top transportation experts will discuss options for the Metro LAX Connector project, which will bring the upcoming Crenshaw/LAX line to the airport. In addition, participants will hear about the project's status so that they can get involved in the process.

The discussion, which is part of the 22nd Annual Empowerment Congress Summit, comes ahead of a January 23 presentation on the topic to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority board of directors.

How the future rail connection will be configured remains to be decided, but one option is to build a station about a half-mile from the terminal area. The other option would land farther out at Aviation Boulevard, nearly two miles from the Tom Bradley International terminal. Either scenario would include a "people mover" to get travelers from the light rail line to the airport terminals.

Nearly 20 years ago, Los Angeles built a Green Line railway that stopped too far from the airport to elicit ridership. As a consequence, LAX lags behind most of the country's top airports including in San Francisco, Chicago, New York's Kennedy and Phoenix which have all completed airport rail stations that conveniently connect visitors and travelers to their destinations.

With the Crenshaw/LAX light rail line scheduled to open by 2019, what is the best option for the county and its millions of visitors? Come find out.

The panel discussion is free, but registration for attendees is required.

What: 22nd Annual Empowerment Congress Summit: Metro Airport Connector 101

When: 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, January 18,

Where: Tutor Campus Center Rosen Family Theatre Room 227

Who: Dan Rosenfeld, principal, George Crenshaw Development Company

Maria Elena Durazo, executive secretary-treasurer, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

Gene Hale, chairman, Greater Los Angeles African-American Chamber of Commerce (GLAAACC)

Arthur T. Leahy, chief executive officer, Metro

Lisa Trifiletti, director of environmental and land use planning, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)

About The Empowerment Congress: Widely regarded as the forerunner to the neighborhood council movement, the Empowerment Congress was founded by Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas when he was a member of the Los Angeles City Council. Each year various committees of the organization come together to work on pressing civic issues and to re-dedicate themselves to activism and advocacy.

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